(c) by when it is proposed to be brought forward in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Finalisation of the Bill on broadcasting is at an advanced stage. The proposed Bill would, inter alia, provide for operation and regulation of private broadcasting in the country. The Bill is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

Threatening of Agitation by Doordarshan and Akashwani Employees

3313. SHRI SHIV CHARAM SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical employees of Doordarshan and Akashwani have threatened to launch agitation;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances;

(c) whether any bilateral negotiations have since been held;

(d) if so, the detailed outcome; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The grievances mainly relate to the recommendations of the Pay Commission, payment of arrears, etc.

(c) to (e) The representatives of Technical Employees have had series of discussions at various levels in the Ministry. The representatives were promised that their demands will be considered sympathetically.

Private Investment for Channel 3

3314. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is seeking approval of Government for private investment of Rs. Thirty crores for Channel 3; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal finalised/under consideration and likely impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No. Sir, Government is only examining the feasibility of obtaining private funding participation to expand the terrestrial network of Doordarshan's DD3 channel in order to enable a larger segment of Indian viewers gain access to three free to air terrestrial channels offering a wide variety of programmes. The specific modalities in this regard are yet to be decided.

Assessment of Government Media in Projecting the National and International News

3315. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical assessment of Government media in projecting the national and international news and its performance as compared to international standards and other news agencies like BBC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government to bring professionalism in the media and to raise the standard of the news services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Even though no